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Congress of the United States
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT

July 16, 2018

The Honorable Brandon Lipps
Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
3101 Park Center Drive
Alexandria, VA 22302

Dear Administrator Lipps,

It has recently come to my attention that the Novo Dia Group, which is the party responsible for processing nearly 40 percent of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) transactions at local farmers' markets, will be ending its service on July 31.

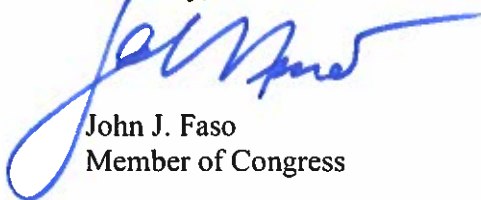
It is my understanding that Novo Dia provides software to roughly 1,700 farmers' markets across the country, and there is not currently a continuity plan in place to enable markets to accept SNAP benefits. This disruption is occurring at one of the busiest times of the year for our local markets, right as many fruits and vegetables are ready to be sold. Our local market managers and farmers are looking for guidance on how to best continue the delivery of this vital nutrition service for families.

Since being notified of the Novo Dia Group ending its services, what steps has USDA taken to ensure that our local markets will continue to accept SNAP benefits without a service disruption? Additionally, what timeline can our local market managers, as well as the New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets, expect more detailed guidance from the USDA on this outstanding issue?

Ensuring that our local markets can accept SNAP benefits is not only important to the countless family farmers in Upstate New York, but is also essential to the core mission of the program, which is the delivery of healthy and nutritious food options to low-income families.

I look forward to your response on this pressing issue and stand ready to assist to provide a seamless transition for SNAP recipients and local family farmers.

Sincerely,



John J. Faso
Member of Congress

CC: Honorable Richard Ball, Commissioner, New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets